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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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As a consumer, I think the settlement is completely bogus.

Microsoft is all about opportunism and nothing about innovation. Its flagship Windows program originated as a copy of an Apple program (itself a copy of a Xerox program). Internet Explorer replicates Netscape. Where its programs are different it is often because the company bought them from the innovative originator.

The settlement merely perpetuates the company's bad habits. Microsoft has consistently won in the marketplace through its tying practices and not because its products are better. Examples:

Its office suite is the standard of business, but it is still not as functional as competing products. WordPerfect is superior to Word. Quattro Pro is superior to Excel. Non-Microsoft products have lost only because Microsoft has linked their products to the operating system and businesses meekly accept the linkage.

Internet Explorer -- a major cause of the litigation -- is not demonstrably superior to Netscape. It's easier to use simply because Microsoft has tied it to the Windows system and they have made it difficult for users to use another browser as a default.

Microsoft will probably take over the e-mail market in the same way. For example, I notice that I cannot use Lotus Notes as an e-mail forwarding service when using Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Now I find that Justice will not stop the similar linking of multimedia players to the Windows system.

So far as I can tell, the settlement will do nothing to assure fair competition. In my opinion, the Windows system is just an essential utility. I object to the settlement because it will continue to allow Microsoft to use its monopoly power in exactly the way it has in the past.

The settlement is a surrender.

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